



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council



COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council

Tuesday 17 March 2026, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

		PRESENT
Chair	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
Councillors	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	Yes
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Irons	Yes
	Councillor Mrs C Baxter	Yes
	Councillor A Harding	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Lindsay	Yes
	In attendance	Clerk

1 23/26 **APOLOGIES:** None

2 24/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Cllr Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (29/26) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).

3 25/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors: There was no update from Cllr A Ellis who had sent his apologies and another online catch-up meeting had been held with Cllr K Bentley on 9 March, mainly to discuss the potholes in New Road and Crown Estates application.
- b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: None

4 26/26 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record

- a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 17 February 2026 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
- b) Draft minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 17 February 2026 were **NOTED**.

5 27/26 **GOVERNANCE**

- a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. One of the new gate posts has been installed and all thanked Cllr Harding and Cllr Strudwick for this. It was agreed to use the existing councillor Whatsapp group to share ASB information for the orchard, but mark message as urgent to alert others. Old news articles on the website to be archived on the system.
- b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**. 29 May is the confirmed date for the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Mrs Lindsay will display Inworth church exhibition material at the meeting and Cllr Mrs Hughes will ask Marco if he is available to give a presentation on village history.
- c) Updated Personnel Committee Terms of Reference were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Suckling, seconded Cllr Harding and all agreed.
- d) New IT Policy was **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter and all agreed.
- e) Parish Council elections – the clerk has circulated an email from CCC with information and link to the Electoral Commission website where the nomination forms can be found. The forms must be submitted in person by Thursday 9 April at 4pm. The clerk agreed to take all forms to Colchester Town Hall.

6 28/26 **PLANNING – CONSIDER**

- a) New application 260296 www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=260296 change window frame material from timber to aluminium at Messing Primary School – all in agreement to object to this application as not in keeping with building and rural setting.
- b) New application 260358 www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=260358 demolition of semi-detached No 2 Newbarn Cottages and replace with self-build detached dwelling. Structural remediation works to the remaining dwelling No1 Newbarn Cottages combined with new side extension – no comments.
- c) Other applications received after agenda publication – none.
- d) New application 26/00119/OUT outline application for Crown Estates Land at Feering. Response was submitted and has been published on BDC's website. Feering Parish Council referenced it in their response. Comments are

still being accepted although the original deadline has passed.

- e) Braintree Local Plan Reg 18 consultation www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan-review-2/7 - Cllr Mrs Lindsay reported that she had attended the BDC exhibition in Kelvedon and it had not been particularly useful. Cllr Mrs Hughes will draft a response and circulate to councillors for comments. The deadline for submission to BDC is 17 April.

7 29/26 **PARISH MATTERS**

- a) Orchard – wire fencing has been ordered and will be installed at work party on 22 March. Cllr Mrs Baxter will be attending the Tiptree spring show on 28 March. Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter are meeting an officer from Essex Wildlife Trust onsite on 30 March. Cllr Mrs Irons is meeting with FOMC to plan 29 November Christmas event.
- b) Allotments – Cllr Mrs Hughes inspected 16 March, all looking good.
- c) Play area – Sovereign Play’s recent operational inspection of the play equipment identified some wear on the small swing rubber which Cllr Studwick will monitor. Annual inspection with Wicksteed has been booked.
- d) Defibrillators – all checks up-to-date.
- e) Potholes – it was agreed to send both a complaint and Freedom of Information request to ECC regarding the potholes in New Road. Clerk to contact flood authority about drainage improvements and contact Messing Park Estate to update.
- f) Parish tree survey – clerk to obtain quotes and include trees in Kelvedon Road.
- g) Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation – looking likely that the 3 unitary authorities option will be chosen.
- h) S106 form – Cllr Suckling has discussed a change in how S106 funds are now allocated by Colchester CC. Current and future funds are allocated against projects and Cllr Ellis advises the Parish Council to develop and maintain a 'wish list' of projects for this purpose. Councillors to bring forward ideas for the next meeting. Clerk to investigate the amount of funds currently available.
- i) Biodiversity schedule – Cllr Mrs Baxter had updated the plan following her attendance at the event at Colchester Zoo. She talked about the Inaturalist app which all agreed looked interesting. The clerk will contact James to amend his schedule of works in line with biodiversity considerations.
- j) Access to the Village Green from School Road – Cllr Harding reported that the pedestrian access by the offset railings is very slippery and dangerous and suggested adding a stepped approach to prevent falls. The clerk will obtain a quote.
- k) Litter pick – the date is confirmed as Sunday 26 April from 10am-12noon. The clerk will draft a poster. Cllr Harding will collect the equipment on 24 April and Cllr Suckling will return it on 27 April.

8 30/26 **CLERK’S REPORT** was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**

Clerk is on leave from 23 March-1 April. Cllr Suckling will be the out-of-office point of contact.

9 31/26 **FINANCE**

- a) Orchard finances were **RECEIVED** and **APPROVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- c) Petty cash was **COUNTED** and **CONFIRMED** by Cllr Strudwick.
- d) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.
- e) Bank reconciliation for the month of February 2026 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.
- f) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Irons and Cllr Mrs Baxter.

10 32/26 **BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS** – S106 list, parish elections, APM

11 33/26 **NEXT MEETING** - confirmed Tuesday 21 April at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.36pm.

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - MARCH 2026

Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (March)	£963.64
HMRC	PAYE (March)	£124.75
Pension Fund	Pension contributions (March)	£322.26
Staff 3	Expenses	£188.79
RCCE	Membership fee 2026/27	£63.60